



St Peter's Lutheran Church - LOXTON

"Living and sharing Jesus' gift of love and hope with all people."

# face2face

Jan-Feb 2012 | Bi-monthly Newsletter of St Peter's Lutheran Church



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Mark your  
Calendar

**February 3-4**

St Peter's Leadership  
Retreat

**February 5**

LLS Opening Service  
5:00pm @ Life Centre

**February 19**

Harvest Thanksgiving

**February 22**

Ash Wednesday



THINK  
AGAIN

MATTHEW 28:18 - 20

Jesus sends his followers out into the world to make disciples. Imagine how they must have felt; a couple of guys in sandals, mostly working-class fishermen, sent out to face the world with this crazy message!

How would you have responded?

And how do you respond today? Remember, we're living sometime in between the book of Acts and the book of Revelation. Does this mean that the Great Commission is also for us? Are we sent out today, tomorrow, next week, to make disciples? And how does that work?

I remember the last time someone really tried hard to sell me something, at one of those kiosks at the mall. I was in a hurry, and the clerk practically chased me down trying to get me to sign me up for a new phone deal he was selling. I know he was doing his job, but I had to wonder. Was that the best way to get his message across?

It made me think of folks who stand on street corners with signs, proclaiming the day of judgment. Turn or burn! While their intentions may be good, do you think a message like that, from a stranger, will accomplish anything good? What message do you think God would want us to proclaim?

In the Great Commission, Jesus is calling us out into the world to make disciples. We're to share God's love and grace through genuine relationships, through serving and loving and caring ... modelling the serving, loving and caring posture that Jesus brought to earth.

What does this look like for us, today?

Who is your neighbour? I mean that theoretically, but also literally. Who lives next door to you? Sometimes the people we need to reach are right under our noses: neighbours, people we encounter at restaurants or grocery stores or in waiting rooms. Nurses, teachers, people riding the bus. Who, in your life, could use a genuine friendship? Who can you reach out to?

It's also a good idea to spend some time really pondering what God's love means to you, in your life. Why exactly do you want to share this good news? Why is it so important? How has it changed you?

Maybe your answers will make you bubble over with excitement. Maybe you'll share the good news of God's grace and love because you simply can't help it.

## St Peter's Call to Monty Lysne

Since my last newsletter, (and if you have not yet heard) we have received word that Monty has accepted our call to come serve here at St Peter's as our Director of Discipleship! This is wonderful news, and quite exciting for us as we head into 2012.

Monty will be responsible for developing and implementing discipleship ministries within St Peter's such as; Small Groups, H2H, Stepping Stones, Bible Studies, retreats and other youth and family ministries initiatives. He will also be helping St Peter's to become a 'lighthouse' for the Faith Inkubators systems for the LCA.

Currently, the Governing Council is working on visa applications and trying to source a home to rent for the Lysne family starting in July. If you have any prospects, or know of a 4 bedroom home, please let us know. Please also keep the Lysne family in your prayers as they are in the process of transferring to Australia.



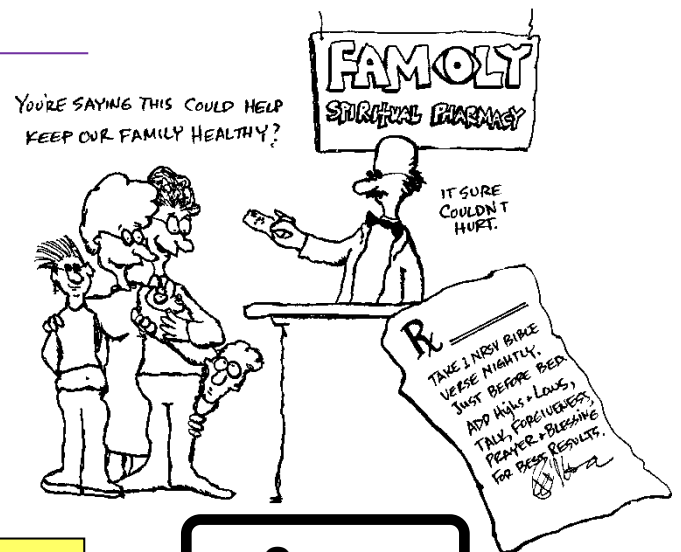
## Faith Inkubation Spot-light



Generations In Faith Together is an intergenerational ministry system. The goal is to go from "every week in every church" to "every night in every home"

using a system designed to create a loving context around the content of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

GIFT uses arts, music, drama, and small groups designed for children and parents to explore, learn and enjoy key Bible verses and stories together. It will connect hearts to arts, parents to kids, church to home, and home to worship. This term we will be studying the Books of Moses.



**Every Sunday @ 9:15am  
Resuming February 5**

**Come  
Join Us!**

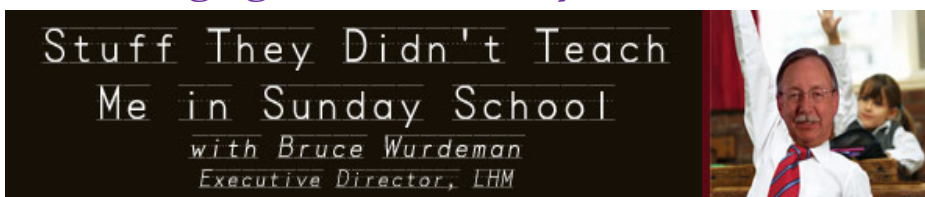
## Leadership Retreat

February 3-4, members from St Peter's Governing Council and Board of Ministry will be heading to Mildura for a planning and team building retreat. Please remember these leaders as they serve you at St Peter's.

## Step-up to Communion / Confirmation

Each year we strive to run a **Step-up to Communion** and **Confirmation** course for those students who wish to express their faith in this manner. If there are any students who are at the age of 10 and would like to take their first Communion, please speak to me about our Step-up to Communion Rite. In addition, I will be running a Confirmation course for those in year 9 and have attended H2H for at least 1 year. If you are interested in learning more, please speak to me.

## Resuming again in February!!



A weekly topic introduced on DVD by Bruce Wurdeman, (Lutheran Hour Ministries), followed by a group discussion.

**When: Thursday evenings @ 7:30pm in St Petri Hall.**

Ever wondered if there was *just a bit more* to some of those lessons you learned in Sunday school? Join Bruce Wurdeman as he takes you behind the scenes and uncovers "Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School."

**Come Check it out!**

# Steps for being healthy for GOD.

1. Grow in knowledge – read the Bible.
2. Hear God's Word being spoken – spend time at church and with other Christians in study.
3. Spend some quiet time with God in prayer and listen to Him.
4. Be open to what God is saying to you.
5. Have an active faith- put God's Word into your actions.
6. Love God actively and love others.
7. Don't allow obstacles to affect your relationship with God.
8. Rest, knowing God is at work in you and your life.



## worship @ St Peter's



### Summer Series

#### OVER THE FENCE: LIVING THE LOVE OF GOD

We've been blessed to be a blessing. Having been changed by the love of God through the gospel, it is our duty and our delight to share that love with our neighbour. Faith is more caught than taught, and genuine relationship is God's method of furthering the Kingdom. Evangelism is a very misunderstood word. Some of us have operated with a framework that looks like this: The burden is on us. We have to close the sale. It's all about

information and decision. The focus is on what happens after you die. It proposes a transaction: God will do something if we will do something. But in Scripture we hear something very different about what it means to witness to our faith. Witnessing is a proclamation of what God has already done in Christ, a proclamation that creates faith which sets people free for joyful obedience. In this series, we'll dispel the myths and discover that evangelism is more engaging and mysterious than we ever imagined.

#### THINK AGAIN

**JANUARY 8 | MATTHEW 28:18 - 20**

Evangelism is one of the most misunderstood words in the Christian vocabulary, and some of our misunderstandings keep us from ever giving it a try.

#### DIG DEEP

**January 15 | EPHESIANS 2: 1-14**

We could just do it because Jesus told us to, but God longs for our heart more than our obedience. The truth is, we won't spread God's love until we discover the delight of faith in our own lives.

#### LOOK AROUND

**JANUARY 22 | MARK 1:16-20**

You'd like to share the good news, but you don't know anyone who isn't a Christian already? Look through these lenses and you'll discover you're surrounded daily by people Jesus died to reach through you.

#### REACH OUT

**JANUARY 29 | JOHN 15:12-17**

More often than not, faith is caught, not taught, through relationship. Genuine friendships are bridges to faith.

#### OPEN UP

**FEBRUARY 5 | ACTS 9:1-18**

We all have a story to tell about what God has done in and through us in life, but not all of us believe that our stories carry God's power. Our lives are the canvas upon which God's story is painted for others to see. This good news that Jesus came to proclaim sets all people free for abundant, joyful living right here and right now!

#### TAKE A BREATH

**FEBRUARY 12 | 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-11**

Faith is built in God's time, not ours; that's part of the mystery. Patience, prayer, and love are the labour of those who partner with God in building the Kingdom.

#### LIVE IT

**FEBRUARY 19 | JOHN 15**

How does knowing what I know about God's plan for the world affect my daily lifestyle? How do I maintain and sustain living out a vital faith that makes a difference in the world?

## Lenten Devotional Services

Once again, the Pastors of the Riverland are going to do a rotational pulpit swap for Lenten Devotional Services.

The theme for this year is yet to be determined, but will be announced soon.

Wednesday evenings  
@ 7:00pm  
Starting February 29

Alternating between  
St Peter's and Concordia

FAITH



Keeping your family together in a world that can tear it apart.

## Every night in every home

1. **Share** your highs and lows of the day.
2. **Read** and highlight a verse in your Bibles.
3. **Talk** about how today's verse relates to your highs and lows.
4. **Pray** for one another
5. **Bless** one another.  
Mark each person with the sign of the Cross.



## The Language of Faith

by Debbie Streicher, Faith Inkubators USA

"When will my child become fluent?" asks the parent. "How much time would you like to invest in immersing your child in a language?" asks the teacher.

The most effective way to learn another language is to live in a home where the language is spoken fluently and a child is surrounded by the culture. Better yet, actually go to the country where the language is spoken and live in a household where you are surrounded by the language every day and every night.

Learning a language not only involves parents to role model the language and customs, but a community to support the family. When a person truly becomes fluent in a language and lives in another country, they thirst to return to the community and family where they learned the language. They not only learn to speak the language, but it becomes an integral part of how they live. It becomes a way of life.

Foreign languages are taught in schools across the country. In most cases, we are introduced to a foreign language in Jr. High and are required to take at least three years before we graduate. Students study the language three to four times a week for about an hour. Most learn the language and can pronounce it, but do not become fluent.

The language of faith is taught in churches across the country. In most cases, we are introduced to the language of faith as infants and are expected to attend a one hour worship service and one hour of Christian Education per week.

Learning to speak the language of faith and live it is the first step in doing God's work.

**We cannot expect anyone to learn the language of faith in one or two hours a week.** If it is true learning a language takes an immersion into the culture, we need to be more intentional about ways to do this in our churches. We must equip our parents, children, and people of all ages with the tools to immerse themselves in the language of our faith every day and night at home, church, work, and school. It should become a way of life.



Our goal for GIFT, Generations In Faith Together is "every night in every home." GIFT nurtures the people of your congregation gathering once a week whether single or married, with or without children, and equips them with tools to continue an immersion into the language of faith every night in their homes.

Lent is a good time to take a step towards focusing on faith in the home and use devotions at home every night. Sharing highs and lows, reading scripture, praying together, and blessing one another has a positive and life long effect on the family.

Our GIFT themes provide devotions for all the ages to share in the home. The church equips and nurtures families once a week and families practice with the tools "every night in every home."

**GIFT the family!**

**"Living and sharing Jesus' gift of love and hope with all people"**

